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CITE TDCS - 314/03328-69

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DIST 13 MARCH 1969

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI MAY 1967

SUBJECT CAPTURE OF TWO U.S. PILOTS DURING THREE DAY AIR
ATTACK IN THE SAM NEUA AREA OF HOUA PHAN PROVINCE

ACQ LAOS, VIENTIANE /11 MARCH 1969/

SOURCE

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

1. IN MAY 1967, PATHET LAO /PL/ POSITIONS IN THE VICINITY OF

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MAY 1967

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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SAN NEUA /VH 0157/ AND THONG NAKAI IN HOUA PHAN PROVINCE WERE SUBJECTED TO A THREE-DAY AIR ATTACK. DURING THE ATTACK, PL FORCES SHOT DOWN AND CAPTURED TWO U.S. PILOTS. BOTH WERE OVER SIX FEET IN HEIGHT AND BLOND. THE PILOTS WERE UNINJURED. THE TYPE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN WHICH THE PILOTS WERE DOWNED WAS UNDETERMINED. MOST OF THE PLANES PARTICIPATING IN THE ATTACK, HOWEVER, WERE DESCRIBED AS F-105'S AND THE PL AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE PILOTS HAD EJECTED FROM TWO SEPARATE F-105'S.

OBSERVED THE PILOTS BEING LED AWAY TO AN UNKNOWN PRISON AREA AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 30 YARDS FROM THEM WHEN THEY PASSED HIS POSITION. OTHER SOLDIERS TOLD HIM THAT THE PILOTS WERE AMERICANS BUT HE DID NOT ACTUALLY HEAR THEM SPEAK. /FIELD COMMENT- WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT./

2. THE TOTAL EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE RESULTING FROM THE AIR ATTACK WAS UNDETERMINED. PATHET LAO AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT 15 F-105'S HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN. THE NUMBER OF PL KILLED WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HIGH AND THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO VEHICLES AND DEFENDING WEAPONS. FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION REPORTED AT LEAST ONE PLATOON OF PL AND NORTH VIETNAMESE DEAD

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AND THREE 37MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS DESTROYED. THE PL CEASED TO
DEFEND THEIR POSITIONS THREE DAYS AFTER THE AIR ATTACKS BEGAN
AND HID IN CAVES IN THE AREA TO WAIT FOR THE ATTACKS TO STOP.

3. FIELD DISSEM- STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC
PACOM ARPAC PACAF /ALSO SENT [REDACTED] AND SAIGON/.

1.5(e)
3.4(b)(1)

Classified
Review on

~~MAR 1969~~

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